

PSYCHE.

THE HABITS AND NOTES OF THE NEW ENGLAND SPECIES OF OECANTHUS.

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(In a Letter to S. H. Scudder.)

Two years ago I became a good deal interested in our Oecanthi. I found four species in the region about Cambridge, all of them distinct in their markings, and all save one readily distinguished by their habits and notes.

1. *Oec. niveus*; whitish-green, with a roundish black spot on basal segment of antennae, and another on the second segment. The song is the well-known rhythmical cricket-note of autumn evenings.

2. *Oec. angustipennis*; greenish-white, more niveous than *niveus*! Like the last, chiefly nocturnal, singing on trees and shrubs. Basal joints of the antennae with crescentic black marks. Song entirely different from that of *niveus*, consisting of a trill of several seconds' duration, succeeded by a short pause; this song suggests the spring note of the toad, heard afar off.

3. *Oec. nigricornis*; strong yellowish cast on the wings; legs and antennae with a good deal of fuscous; basal segments

of antennae marked thus [showing a figure with a heavy digamma on the basal joint and two longitudinal lines on the second joint], though the pattern is often obscured by the fuscous suffusion of the whole antennae. Note a long continuous *r-r-r-r-r*, which sounds in a small way like a *Cicada*. Diurnal, singing particularly on low herbs, *Solidago* etc., on edges of swamps and also in dry fields.

4. *Oec. 4-punctatus*; similar to *Oec. nigricornis*, but antennal joints marked thus [the second joint as in the last; the basal with a reversed figure 7, the short arm followed by a dot]. Rarest of the four species about here; diurnal, found on herbs in dry fields. Song similar to that of No. 3, but clearer in tone and no doubt sufficiently distinct on close acquaintance. I have found only two or three of this species, in Cambridge and Lexington.

I have found all four of these species within a few rods of the Museum.